

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

APRIL 26, 2011

Proclaim April 24 through April 30, 2011 as Youth Temperance Education Week

Substance abuse and dependence exact a tremendous toll economically, socially, and personally on individuals around the world. Throughout the nation, substance abuse, particularly in adolescents, is a major public health problem. The definitive cause is unknown and studies show that there is a progression from legal to illegal drugs.

Efforts to reduce substance abuse through prevention and education have largely relied on teaching children about the adverse consequences of using alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Newer approaches also focus on the social and psychological factors involved in the onset and early stages of substance use and offer considerable promise in the efforts of prevention and education. Studies conducted at Cornell University shows that these prevention approaches target individuals during the beginning of adolescence and teach drug resistance skills and norm setting either alone or in combination with personal and social skills.

The County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control has conducted a study of Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - 2009 of high school students in Los Angeles compared to a study of high school students nationwide. The data from the study shows percentage of youth who have:

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

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	Los Angeles	Nationwide
Consumed at least one alcoholic drink during their life	68.2	72.5
Tried alcohol for the first time before the age of 13 years	25.5	21.1
Consumed five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the past 30 days	18.6	24.2
Used tobacco one or more times during their life	28.1	50.0
Used marijuana one or more times during their life	37.6	36.8
Tried marijuana for the first time before the age of 13 years	9.6	7.5
Used any form of cocaine one or more times during their life	9.7	6.4
Sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray or inhaled any paints or spray to get high during their life	16.9	11.7
Used heroin one or more times during their life	3.8	2.5
Used methamphetamines one or more times during their life	7.1	4.1
Used ecstasy one or more times during their life	11.0	6.7
Used non-prescribed steroid (pills or shots) one or more times during their life	3.5	3.3
Used needle to inject any illegal drugs into their body one or more times	3.2	2.1
Offered, sold or given an illegal drug by someone on school property during the twelve months before the survey	39.5	22.7

The future of the nation, state and county are in the hands of the youth and recognition must be given to the value of early training in building character and the importance of educating the youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. It is also important to recognize the role and the responsibility of parents, teachers and counselors to guide and instruct our young people.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union and its branches, the Youth Temperance Council and its branches, and the Loyal Temperance Legion make a special effort during Youth Temperance Education Week to inform junior and senior high school students about the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

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I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim April 24 through April 30, 2011 as Youth Temperance Education Week throughout the County of Los Angeles, and in doing so, join Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Youth Temperance Council and the Loyal Temperance Legion in their efforts to promote awareness, education and prevention of dependency and substance abuse for the youth.

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